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SUBJECT: "Civvie-lized Men" - Information from the Office of Supply, War
Food Administration.

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Owen Meredith realized the worth of good cooks...and he didn't mind telling
people. He even wrote a few lines in their favor...and these are his sentiments:

"We may live without poetry, music, and art,
We may live without conscience, and live without heart,
We may live without friends, we may live without books;
But civilized man cannot live without cooks."

It's all very well to talk about food and good cooks...and their relation
to civilized life...but some people never get past that stage these days. They
prefer to dwell on the problems...instead of doing something about them.

The story of how one woman solved a big food problem...comes from the
Isaacson Iron Works in Seattle, Washington. At this foundry...men and women are
helping to build ships. Most of them can eat in the main cafeteria there. But
there are other workers...thirty-seven on each of three shifts...who can't take
the time to walk to the cafeteria. These people work near blast furnaces and in
cranes...and they can't leave them long enough to go to the cafeteria.

Lillian Olson...the manager of the cafeteria...saw the difficulty. If the
workers couldn't come to the cafeteria...she'd just take the cafeteria to them.

That she did...and here's the way she worked it. She set up a white cafeteria
in one corner of the foundry...so close to the workers...that it is lighted by the
glow of the furnaces and the sparks from the grinding steel.

The food comes from the main cafeteria...to this Forge Shop as it is called.
Just before lunch time...a woman food service worker...gets the food which is

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5-25-45

packed in vacuum cans...and puts it in a trailer...and gets good food to the workers in the foundry.

That woman on the scooter is energetic. She doesn't bring just one type of lunch and say, "Take it or leave it." She brings enough that the workers have a choice of two hot entrees...or three cold plate specials...at 40 cents and 30 cents

A hot lunch might include...soup, spare ribs, mashed potatoes, string beans, Chef's salad, rice pudding or pie...and milk or coffee. A typical cold plate would have soup, cottage cheese and orange salad...milk and dessert.

The workers really go for it. They are so grateful that they often leave notes of appreciation for Lillian on their lunch tables. One worker even admitted that he was thinking about quitting work...but he decided to stay...because the food is so good.

This praise of her work makes Lillian feel that she is doing something to help win the war...and so she is. She...like many homemakers...is helping to reduce absenteeism and to improve labor relationships. That means that ships can be built faster. She is helping civilians to do their part.

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